

treatment of the operative conditions likely to be met with in attempts at removal of such growths is found. The chapter is a disappointing one to one who wishes to know the present state of surgical effort in this region, although it is clear and complete enough in its presentment of the author's own views and practice.

Affections of the sigmoid flexure, prolapsus ani, pruritus ani, impacted fæces, villous tumor of the rectum and malformations, each receive attention in the succeeding chapters of the book. We close the book feeling that it has been written for a certain constituency, and that it is admirably adapted by the very features which we might otherwise be most inclined to criticise to gain attention and command *a following*. *It vigorously antagonizes much error; insists upon thoroughness of examination and positiveness of diagnosis; it is radical in matters of safe procedure and conservative in those of more vital moment.* It cannot fail in its special field to promote better and safer work. Though we have not hesitated to point out what seemed to us shortcomings in this work, nevertheless, on the whole, it is worthy of high commendation.

L. S. PILCHER.

THE DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD. By H. BRYAN DONKIN, F.R.C.P.  
8vo. 1893. New York: Wm. Wood & Co.

The writer of this book is one of those who takes the position that while childhood offers many distinct and peculiar manifestations of disease, they are not sufficiently distinct to make of them an exclusive specialty. He writes more for general practitioners and advanced students. By far the greater portion of the material presented is taken from his own note-books and personal experience. He presents a very pleasing arrangement of his own ideas based on personal experience. He has devoted himself exclusively to the medical diseases, and, for convenience, has made three classes based upon age. From birth to the end of the second year he refers to as Infancy; from this time to the end of the fourth year he speaks of as Early Childhood; and from the fourth to the fifteenth year he classes as Childhood. The subjects treated are arranged under attractive headings, and throughout the entire book,

of four hundred and twenty-four pages, the author has adopted and maintained a conversational style, which gives the book a peculiar charm. At no point does one encounter a dictatorial spirit, but, on the other hand, there is always the feeling that he is addressing you more or less personally; and particularly in referring to special or unusual cases is willing, and, in fact, prefers, to leave much to the intelligence of the reader.

While possessing decided views of his own, he is always mindful that on many points others can and do truthfully disagree with him. His opinions of the comparative value of tracheotomy and intubation in cases of membranous laryngeal obstructions are either based upon insufficient data or else are tinged by an English prejudice, a condition which he practically admits upon page 351.

The material in his appendix to Section III, embodying an abstract of the conclusions given in the "Report of a Committee Appointed by the Clinical Society of London, to Investigate the Periods of Incubation and Contagiousness of Certain Infectious Diseases," is valuable, and serves to fix this data and place it in a form for permanent use. Mention is briefly made of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus in diphtheria, and the hope is expressed that it may become a means of general clinical assistance. Up to the time, however, of going to press the matter was not sufficiently well understood to warrant him in making any positive claims for it or to arrange any of the technical methods by means of which clinical use might be made of it at the bedside.

Upon the subject of treatment, the book is refreshingly brief and to the point. The text is nowhere burdened with a multiplicity of confusing formulæ, but here, as elsewhere, one is impressed with the feeling that what is said is thoroughly practical. The purpose which the author had at the beginning has been well carried out, and the book becomes a valuable addition to a rapidly increasing number upon the same subject. Clearly, the purpose of the author has been to formulate useful principles of action, leaving individual and unusual cases to the general intelligence of the physician.

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